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THE GULL

Golden Gate Audubon Society Berkeley, California Volume 73 Number 11 December 1991



WHOOPS!

We usually alert you to the big event of the season, The Christmas Count, in *The GULL* for November. This year there were too many undecided issues. Now we know:

Oakland: Sunday, Dec. 15

San Francisco: Friday, Dec. 27

Of course, you knew it was coming. Now all you have to do is decide to participate. Call Barbara Rivenes at the GGAS office or a compiler for the Count you can help. Turn to p. 175 for details.

WETLANDS

The 1989 Wetlands Manual was developed by wetlands scientists to help resolve the controversy over "what is a wetland." It was to be used by the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA in determining which wetlands they would regulate. While not entirely happy with the Manual, conservationists felt it did have some scientific credibility and that it would identify most if not all of our seasonal wetlands as jurisdictional (or regulated) wetlands.

The real estate, oil and mining, and development interests, on the other hand, had a different view of the issue. They felt threatened by the Manual; too many wetlands that they were destroying were now being identified as wetlands using the 1989 Manual. They complained bitterly to the Corps, the EPA, Congress and the President.

Out of their lobbying attack came the Proposed Revisions announced in the *Federal Register*, August 14, 1991. These Revisions throw science out the window. They have made wetlands identification a political determination not a scientific one.

For example, for an area to be judged a wetland the Proposed Revisions would change the number of days the area must be saturated with water from 7 consecutive days (in the original 1989 Manual) to 21 consecutive days. There is no scientific documentation supporting the 21 day period. There are laboratory tests that substantiate a 7-day limit.

Also the Revisions would define saturation as water to the surface. You must be able to squeeze water out

(continued on page 184)

You have until December 14, to write a letter to the EPA opposing a new definition of wetlands that would lead to massive losses of wetlands across our nation.

HELP US CONTINUE THE FIGHT

It's the holiday season, and during this season we urge you to consider making a special gift to GGAS to help to continue our efforts to preserve our Bay's wildlife resources.

Our activities this last year have been wide ranging: from our lawsuit against the State Water Resources Control Board with a goal of bringing more fresh water to our dying Bay; to sending our Conservation Chairman to Washington, D.C. (page 180) to educate our legislators about wetlands; to leading the effort to create a California State Audubon Lobbyist position in Sacramento; to working to develop wetlands in San Francisco at Mission Bay, at Pier 98 and at Candlestick Point State Recreation Area; to developing Burrowing Owl habitat in Alameda and in San Francisco; to stopping a toll road that would go through central Alameda and Contra Costa and Solano counties and that would destroy wetlands and endangered species habitat; to preserving the Gateway area and its irreplaceable viewscape and wildlife, we are constantly fighting for our natural world.

GGAS is one of the most active and most effective Audubon Chapters in the nation. But to be this effective and active takes active people and money.

The threats to our natural world are growing. For example, the threats to our wetlands, (p. 173), may well lead to our nation losing 50% of its remaining wetlands. And there is a new threat on the horizon. A campaign called the "Wise Use Movement" has been

organized and funded by the usual cast of resource consumers-real estate, oil and mining, developers, timber and agribusiness.

Their goal is to weaken or abolish all laws and regulations that protect our natural environment, from the endangered species act to wetlands regulations. Considering the entities supporting this campaign, the "wise use movement" will obviously be well funded. We have heard that they are planning to spend \$1 million on TV advertising to advance their cause.

To fight off this new attack will take an enhanced effort on our part. We'll never match their funding, but we **must** have money to continue to mail our action alerts, to go to Washington, to maintain our normal operations and to keep you informed so that you can help rebut these attacks on our natural world.

So please think of the Golden Gate Audubon Society and give to us as generously as you are able. All donations are tax deductible. Please make your checks to GGAS (or Golden Gate Audubon Society) and mail them to 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. We thank you for your support in this time of great need.

USE LESS WATER

Who in the Bay Area needs to be told this? But it is #4 in Audubon's top ten. Install aerators on your faucets, use a low-flow shower head. Fill a bottle with water and put it in your toilet tank to use less water when flushing. Better yet, get a new , low flush toilet.

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MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Why not make a New Year's Resolution to attend all of GGAS's 1992 programs? As you can see from the following list, this would be one resolution that wouldn't be hard to keep:

"In the Wake of the Kittiwakes"

David Wimpfheimer

San Francisco, January 9

"Marine Mammals"

Steven Morello

Berkeley, February 13

"The Wildest Place on Earth,
Manu National Park, Peru"

John Dillon

San Francisco, March 12

"Effects of Forest Fragmentation on
Tropical and Eastern Breeding Birds"

Kathryn Sieving

Berkeley, April 9

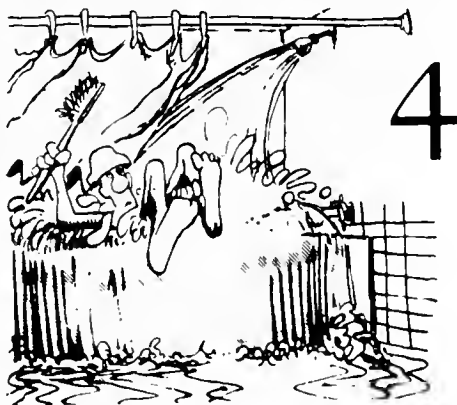
"California Least Tern Natural History
and Current Status"

Leora Feeny

Berkeley, May 14

—JOELLE BUFFA

AUDUBON'S TEN TOP TIPS FOR SAVING THE PLANET



CHRISTMAS COUNTS

There is still time to sign up to be involved in either or both of the Counts sponsored by GGAS. The counts provide useful information on winter bird populations, and the time series being developed is increasingly of interest. Whatever your level of birding ability, there is a place for you. It is fun; come join us.

OAKLAND

The 1991 Oakland Christmas Count will take place on Sunday, Dec. 16, with a Count Dinner to follow, as is customary, at the Kensington Community Center at 59 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley. The Compilers this year will be Kay Loughman (510) 601-1351 and Martha Vaughan (510) 563-7366.

Everyone who participated last year should have received an invitation to join in this year's effort. If you have not, please call the GGAS office (510) 843-2222. If you did not get out last year, and would like to join us, please call. There is still time to get involved.

SAN FRANCISCO

The Ninth Annual San Francisco Christmas Count is to be on Friday, Dec. 27. Compilers Dan Murphy, (415) 564-0074, and Alan Hopkins, (415) 664-0983, will carry on again. Please do not call them after Dec. 20, (and certainly not on Dec. 25), but please call now, if you have not participated recently, or have not received your invitation.

The Dinner and Count-down will be at the Hall of Flowers at Golden Gate Park.

SHOPPING?

Remember, GGAS stocks birding books, bird seed, feeders, note cards, calendars, appointment books, and other items suitable for holiday giving.

(continued on next page)

Gift memberships in Audubon might be just the thing.

And something new—the **GGAS Gift Certificate** (you decide the amount) redeemable at the GGAS office in bird seed, or anything else we offer for sale.

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, December 7—Monterey Bay and Coastal Areas.

Wednesday, December 11—Mini-trip to Lake Merritt.

For details on the above, see *The GULL* for November.

Saturday, January 4—Palo Alto Baylands. Meet at 8 a.m. Take Hwy. 101 south to Palo Alto; exit at Embarcadero and drive east toward the airport and Baylands Nature Center. Continue beyond the airport to the duck pond (on the left) and park at the east end. Bring lunch, scopes and clothes appropriate for rain and mud. We should see waterfowl, rails and shorebirds. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074).

Wednesday, January 8—Mini-trip to Arrowhead Marsh, Oakland. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the marsh. Take Hwy. 880 (Nimitz) to the Hegenberger exit. Drive west to Doolittle and turn right. Go a short distance and turn right onto Swan. Turn left after about a block and follow the signs to the marsh. Park in the second parking lot on the left. We will look for Burrowing Owls and waterfowl. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Saturday, January 11—Lodi, Woodbridge Rd. and Staten Island. meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Rocky's Restaurant at the intersection of I-5 and State Hwy. 12. From the Bay Area take Hwy. 580 and continue east beyond Tracy to I-5. Go north about 14 miles beyond Stockton to the intersection of Hwy. 12. (An alternate route would be to take Hwy. 12 out of Fairfield and Rio Vista to I-5.) We will

caravan to the Lodi sewage ponds for rare shorebirds, then to Woodbridge Rd. for cranes, and to Staten Island for waterfowl. Dress warmly and be prepared for rain. Bring lunch and liquids. Leader: David Yee (209/951-1526). (✓)

Saturday, January 11—Dillon Beach. Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, section H (just east of the Sir Francis Drake off-ramp from Hwy. 101. We urge carpooling from there.) We will leave there promptly at 8 a.m. for the town of Tomales, where we will meet the people from west Marin at 9 a.m. by the old Bank of America building on Hwy. 1. From there we will continue to caravan to Lawson's Landing (entrance fee).

We may see three species of Loons, Red-necked Grebes, White Pelicans, Brants, Snowy Plovers, and Golden Plovers. Bring lunch, warm clothes, rain gear, and a scope if you have one. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). (\$) (✓)

Sunday, Jan. 12—Grizzly and Joice Islands Wildlife Area. Take I-80 east to Fairfield, and exit on West Texas St. Continue for about one-half mile to the City Park, and meet in the parking lot near the entrance at 8:30 a.m. We will caravan from there to the refuge. We should see a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and marshbirds. Bring lunch, and scopes. Leader: Peter Allen (892-8063). \$(✓)

Plan Ahead:

Saturday, January 18—Panoche Valley. Leader: Chris Carpenter.

Sunday, January 19—Los Banos Wildlife Refuge. Leader: Peter and Dolores White.

For details on above trips see January issue of *The GULL*.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓). If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or

if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (524-2399)

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

OBSERVATIONS— THROUGH OCTOBER

Fall is generally the most active time of the year for seabirds and seabirders—Monterey Bay in October is Mecca for birders from all over. But things have been pretty subdued in Monterey this fall—the birds were there but in relatively low numbers. On the other hand, there were a few treats. On October 5, a boat approached the Storm-Petrel flock on Monterey Bay and put out a cod-liver oil slick; within seconds, a Laysan Albatross appeared, the earliest fall record ever for Monterey Bay (DLSh, AWa). That same day a Wilson's Storm-Petrel and several Least Storm-Petrels were also seen (AWa, THK). Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen on Farallon and Cordell Bank pelagics on the 12th and 13th (GMF, ShH). Parasitic Jaegers were seen inside S.F. Bay as well as from shore along the ocean throughout the month. South Polar Skuas were reported from Monterey (AWa) and Ft. Bragg (DT) pelagic trips on the 4th and 6th and from Pigeon Pt. on the 28th (BS fide RSTh). Many calm days did provide some of the best murrelet viewing in years, allowing experienced viewers the luxury of learning that the old problem of separating Xantus' and Craveri's Murrelets may be even more difficult than has been assumed and in some cases may be impossible unless the bird flies and the underwing is visible, despite a number of well-considered i.d. characters for sitting birds. Slides and judgments are still being passed around but there is no jocularly among those who thought the identification might be getting easier.

There was quite a stir at Abbott's Lagoon after an **Arctic Loon**, a small black and white loon with distinctive white flank patches was discovered there on Nov. 2 (SNGH, JLD). Formerly Arctic Loon was considered to be one circumpolar species, but work by Russian researchers in the 1970's indicated the presence of two species and Pacific Loon, which breeds in Alaska and winters along the west coast, was separated out. The problem seems to be that distinguishing between Pacific Loon and the Asian subspecies of Arctic Loon is by no means clear-cut under any circumstances, in part because there has been no opportunity to study the Asian subspecies in areas where its identification can be certain. Knowledge is limited to observations in western Alaska of individuals assumed to be this subspecies and development of a sometimes-hesitantly-applied set of criteria for identification. At this point, the consensus among those who know these loons is that if the judging criteria are correct then this is indeed an Arctic Loon, the first west coast North American record south of Alaska.

There have been some great ducks around too: a male Tufted Duck at Lake Merced, found on the 23rd and still present at the end of the month (KW, SMo, ASH, AWa); a female **King Eider** at Pt. Reyes on the 18th (JM); and an immature **Steller's Eider**, balm for disappointed refugees of a cancelled boat trip at Bodega Bay on the 27th and only the third California record of this bird (LT, SBT, RS, mob). Harlequin Ducks were reported from Año Nuevo on the 5th (ELb) and Pt. Reyes from the 18th on (BiL, KH, mob). The Oldsquaw continued to be seen at the Fish Docks (mob).

The seasonal total of Broad-wing Hawks continued to climb at Hill 129, passing 240, a new record (CLF). A Yellow Rail was both seen and heard

at Rodeo Lagoon on the 25th by a visitor from Texas (GL).

Pectoral Sandpipers continued to appear in large numbers in the South Bay through the middle of the month, with a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** among them from Sept. 30 to Oct. 17 (MFe, mob), and up to two Ruffs thru the 24th (PJM, mob). Another **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was reported from SE Farallon on the 26th (PP).

A Cordell Bank pelagic trip was enlivened by a Short-eared Owl on the 13th (ShH); another one at Ocean Beach in San Francisco on the 30th was also rather out of its usual element (ASH). An adult male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was banded at Palomarin on the 13th (KH). An adult male **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, one of those birds that makes everyone's wish-list after one flip through the field guide, spent five days at the Salinas Sewer Ponds at the end of the month (DR, RMrr, MiF). A migrating Townsend's Solitaire was at the Fish Docks on the 10th (BYH). Two Gray Catbirds, one the remains of a Sharp-shinned Hawk kill and the other which may spend the winter, were reported from SE Farallon (PP); another was at Mendoza Ranch on the 17th (DGY).

A total of as many as **forty-nine Red-throated Pipits** were reported through the month, a number that approaches miraculous. Added to this were up to five American/Water Pipits of the race *japonicus*, two at Pt. Reyes (KH, KSw, BY, FGa) and three on SE Farallon (PP). A Philadelphia Vireo was at Stinson Gulch on the 9th (DaS, KH); a first-year **Yellow-green Vireo** was banded at Palomarin on the 11th (KH); and a Red-eyed Vireo was there on the 12th (JCS).

The list of warblers doesn't quite equal last month's, but it's still pretty impressive.

WARBLERS

TENNESSEE WARBLER

1	10/2	Pt. Isabel	RJR
1	10/8	San Mateo County	BS fide RSTh
1	10/11-18	Pt. Reyes	DL,DBP,RS, JM,BiL
1	10/17	SE Farallon	PP

NASHVILLE WARBLER

1	10/2	Bodega Bay	DN
1	10/10	Stinson Gulch	KH
2,2	10/19,22	Pt. Reyes	DH,JCS

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER

1	9/26	SE Farallon	PP
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CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

1	9/30	Pt. Reyes	DL,EDG, KH
1	10/1	SE Farallon	PP
1,1	10/5,5-7	Bodega Bay	DH,ChW
1	10/16	San Francisco	PR

MAGNOLIA WARBLER

1,1	9/30,10/11	Bodega Bay	FoT,DN
4 total	10/1-18	SE Farallon	PP
1	10/3-6	Bolinas	KH
1	10/11-20	Pt. Reyes	JAsh,mob
1	10/13	San Mateo Coast	RSTh

CAPE MAY WARBLER

1	10/8	Gazos Creek Rd.	BS fide RSTh
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BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

4 total	10/6-24	Pt. Reyes	RS,BY,DL, DN,MLR,SGI
3	10/16-22	SE Farallon	DaS fide KH, PP
1	10/19-26	Bodega Bay	FoT,DN, ChW,KvG
1	10/1	SE Farallon	PP
1	10/18-19	Pt. Reyes	JGE fide KH, SGI
1	10/24	Inverness	RS

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

6 total	10/1-27	SE Farallon	PP
1,1	10/6,18-20	Pt. Reyes	SBT,JM,mob
1	10/14	Carmel River	PJM
1	10/22	Bolinas	KH

PRAIRIE WARBLER

1,1	10/1-3,2-19	Pt. Reyes	RS,DaS,mob
1	10/2	Bodega Bay	DN
1	10/7	Bolinas	CAX fide KH
1	10/22	Ano Nuevo	RSTh

PALM WARBLER

30 total	9/30-10/26	SE Farallon	PP
21 total	10/1-30	Pt. Reyes	mob
3 total	10/3-13	Bolinas	KH
3 total	10/4-26	San Francisco	JsC,SMo
3 total	10/5-22	San Mateo County	RSTh,BS
1,1	10/6,19	Marin Headlands	CLF

7 total	10/11-28	Bodega Bay	DN,GFi
5 total	10/12-23	Santa Cruz County	Elb,PJM
1,1	10/15,16	Monterey County	PJM
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER			
1	10/11	Palomarin	KH
1	10/15	Pt. Reyes	JMR
BLACKPOLL WARBLER			
6 total	9/30-10/15	Pt. Reyes	DL,JM, JMR,mob
9 total	9/26-10/19	SE Farallon	7P
6 total	10/1-15	Monterey County	SML,DR,MiF SBT,PJM
1	10/7	Bolinas Lagoon	DaS fide RS
1	10/15	Hayward Shoreline	RJR
1	10/17	Watsonville	PJM
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER			
1,1	9/3-10/3,3	San Mateo Coast	TE,RSTh, SML
1	9/28-10/2	Pt. Reyes	BiL,JEP, CBe,MG
4 total	9/29-10/14	Monterey County	DR,SML, SBT,PJM
1	10/7-13	Bodega Bay	ChW,DN
1,1	10/29-30 30	Bolinas	CAX fide KH,DWm
AMERICAN REDSTART			
4 total	9/30-10/26	Pt. Reyes	WT,KH, JCS,mob
9 total	9/26-10/19	SE Farallon	PP
1	10/14	Big Sur River	PJM
1	10/14	Bodega Bay	ChW
1	10/17-19	Moss Beach	AME
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER			
1	9/28-10/3	Pt. Reyes	BiL,mob
1	9/29-10/5	Carmel River	DR,SML,MiF
1	9/30-10/1	Palo Alto Baylands	MaR,JM
OVENBIRD			
3 total	9/10-10/17	SE Farallon	PP
1	10/2	Pt. Reyes	MG
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH			
1	10/1-2	SE Farallon	PP
2	10/14/15	Carmel River	PJM
MOURNING WARBLER			
1	10/6	SE Farallon	PP
1	10/10	Palomarin	fide KH

SE Farallon had a Summer Tanager on the 5th and 6th and a **Scarlet Tanager**, only the sixth island record, from the 22nd to 24th. Clay-colored Sparrows were around in moderate numbers—total of ten reported for the period. A Brewer's Sparrow was on SE Farallon on Sept. 30 (PP). A Lark Bunting was in Monterey on the 1st and 2nd (fide DR). Ten Swamp Sparrows and

fourteen White-throated Sparrows were reported. A **Smith's Longspur**, a lovely buffy adult male, found in a very dusty field at Pt. Reyes on the 6th and seen for the next two days, was only the second California record for this bird (GR, SBT, JM). It's a Snow Bunting kind of year with a total of ten reported including six from SE Farallon.

There was a Bobolink at Princeton on the 5th (RSTh), a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Verdi Rd. pond on the 8th, Rusty Blackbirds at Gazos Creek on the 28th and SE Farallon on the 17th, and . . . an Orchard Oriole, last and not least, at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse on the 10th (RS).

OBSERVERS:

Chuck Alexander, John Ascher, Jane Becker-Haven, Chris Benesch, Josiah Clark, Jim Danzenbaker, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Alan M. Eisner, Jules G. Evans, Carter L. Faust, Mike Feighner, Gary M. Fellers, Marc Fenner, George Finger, Murray Gardler, F. Gardner, Michael Genet, Steve Glover, Edward D. Greaves, Kevin Guse, Keith Hansen, Shawn Hayes, David Hoffman, Alan S. Hopkins, Theodore H. Koundakjian, Earl Lebow, Dave Lee, Bill Lenarz, Gail Luckner, Robert Merrill, Peter J. Metropulos, S. Moldinow, Scott Morrical, Joe Morlan, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, John E. Parmeter, Peter Pyle, Peter Radcliff, Jean M. Richmond, Robert J. Richmond, Don Roberson, Marcus Roening, Mary Louise Rosegay, Gary Rosenberg, Barry Sauppe, David Sibley, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, K. Swenson, Ken Taylor, Linda Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, Forrest Tomlinson, Walter Tordoff, Adrian Wander, Kaynor Weishaupt, David Wimpfheimer, Chris Wood, David G. Yee, Bob Yutzky.

—ANN DEWART

CONSERVATION NOTES

GGAS GOES TO WASHINGTON: OUR LEGISLATORS LISTEN AND ACT

In early October Conservation Chairman Arthur Feinstein joined 16 other Californians flying to Washington, D.C. to help educate our Senators and Representatives about the dire threats our wetlands are now facing.

As you have read in past issues of *The GULL*, a new concerted attack upon wetlands has been launched. President Bush has unveiled a program cynically entitled "Protecting America's Wetlands" that would lead to devastating wetland losses throughout the nation. Our Bay would see all of its salt ponds and seasonal wetlands removed from federal jurisdiction and protection under this proposed program.

Federal legislation that generally mimics the Bush program has been written and already has 168 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and 24 in the Senate, including California's John Seymour.

Worst, a new definition of wetlands has been introduced into the regulatory process that will lead to drastic wetland losses if enacted (see page 173).

To counteract this attack a new coalition "The Campaign to Save California Wetlands" has been formed. GGAS is one of the initiating organizations of this coalition giving both financial support and a lot of volunteer hours. We are represented on its Steering Committee.

One of its first actions was to organize a trip to Washington, D.C. for 16 California wetland activists from both northern and southern California.

Our trip was a great success to the extent that every California legislator was visited and told to hold fast to wetland protection. Capitol Hill now knows that we will not give up our wetlands without a fight.

Shortly after our trip, Congressman Barbara Boxer drafted a powerful letter to her fellow legislators urging them to oppose the developer-slanted wetlands legislation and to oppose President Bush's wetland giveaway program.

Thirteen other California Representatives signed that letter including our own Nancy Pelosi and Ron Dellums, Don Edwards, Pete Stark, Norman Mineta, and Tom Lantos. We thank them all for their strong support on this issue.

In addition Don Edwards has written a letter specifically opposing the Proposed Revisions to the Wetland Delineation Manual and Norman Mineta co-signed that letter.

And George Miller has written his own letters, as Chairman of the House Interior Committee, asking the Secretary of the Interior and the head of the EPA how the new Manual would effect those lands that come under the Interior Committee's jurisdiction (such as National Parks and Wilderness Areas).

If our wetlands are going to be saved it will be because our national legislators see the light. Our own Bay Area legislators already have.

It would be good to write to your own representative, if he or she is on the list above, to express your thanks for support on this important issue. The address is U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

And also, please write Senator John Seymour and express your displeasure at learning that he's supporting wetland legislation (S 1463 Breaux) that would lead to significant wetland losses in the Bay Area. His address is U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510.

If you wish to learn more about this issue, please call me at 282-5937.

—ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

TIMBER WAR REIGNITES

Last month Governor Pete Wilson vetoed a delicate compromise that had been hammered out by environmental groups and some timber companies and set the stage for a repeat of the contentious initiative battles that raged in 1990. Environmental groups have been pushing for reform of California's forestry regulations in an attempt to protect the remaining ancient forests and to move the timber industry toward sustained-yield practices.

The compromise, nicknamed the Sierra Accords, had been worked out by the Sierra Club and Sierra Pacific Industries, California's largest timberland owner. The Audubon Society had supported it, even though the Accords' environmental safeguards were not as strong as the Society would have liked. The compromise was attacked by many timber companies that operate on the coast. They claimed that due to the differences in logging practices between the coast and the Sierras the compromise would have given Sierra Pacific an unfair advantage.

Governor Wilson had successfully attempted to dilute the legislation as it wended its way through the state legislature. Upon vetoing the compromise, the governor pledged to offer new legislation later this year.

Meanwhile, environmental groups have been gathering signatures to qualify a new initiative for the ballot in 1992, similar to the *Forests Forever* initiative of 1990. They are about half way there and will undoubtedly, increase their efforts as a result of the governor's veto.

The governor's the vetoed compromise's, and the initiative's position on selected aspects of forestry regulations are as follows:

Clearcutting, the governor wanted clearcuts to be limited to 40 acres, the compromise 20 acres, and the initiative 2.5 acres on the coast and 5 acres in the Sierra.

Riparian protection, the governor wanted to allow up to 27% of trees to be cut along a forest stream or watershed every 20 years, the compromise 15%, and the initiative 5%.

Sustained yield—the restriction that no more timber be cut than grows—is mandated by both the compromise and the initiative. The compromise provided for a 10-year phase-in period. The initiative requires it immediately. The governor will ask the Board of Forestry to adopt sustained yield as a policy.

Unless the governor can put together a new compromise soon, we can look forward to a replay of 1990's "Battle of the Initiatives" in which environmentalists and timber companies spent more than \$17 million. This is a high-stakes gamble for the timber industry since the *Forests Forever* initiative only narrowly lost. Since that time, their public image has not been helped by revelations of their exporting logs and jobs to Mexico. They may eventually look back wistfully to the compromise that they helped kill.

(From *Madrone Leaves* for November 1991)

— BOOKSIGNING —

Rich Stallcup will join **Jules Evans** at the Visitors Center at the Marin Headlands Dec. 7 from 2–4 p.m. to celebrate *Ocean Birds of the Nearshore Pacific*, published by PRBO. For further information call (415) 331-1540.

BACK YARD BIRDER

Birdhouses are definitely "in" as decorator items in the home as well as in the yard. Some are quite elaborate copies of churches, barns, farm houses, colonial styles, etc. I was recently a judge in a "birdhaus" contest sponsored by the Institute of Business Designers and OP Contract Inc. The birdhouses were judged and then auctioned to benefit Ronald McDonald House. All the other judges were designers or architects. Entrants were to design a house for a specific client's, i.e. a real or mythical bird's, needs. There were 20 entries, each one unique, some simple, some tricky. I was struck dumb by the ingenuity, whimsy and humor and sheer beauty of each of them. From my standpoint most would not be occupied by birds I know, but some qualified for real bird occupants. Strangely, I agreed with the other judges on 3 of the top 5. I'm afraid the other 2 I judged with my heart rather than using the design criteria.

Setting out homemade nesting sites (hollowed-out gourds, e.g.) is an ancient tradition. Folks from the Middle Ages weren't as interested in bird watching as they were in raising the first broods for dinner, usually House Sparrows or Starlings. In America, settlers wanted to attract Purple Martins which are very aggressive about their territory and would drive away vultures from the pioneers' deer kills. Today, many people believe that Purple Martins will rid their yards of mosquitoes. This side benefit has been greatly exaggerated—mosquitoes emerge at dusk, after the birds have gone to bed. But these birds do eat many other insects and pests and they are beautiful, pleasant birds.

At least 35 North American species will use "artificial" nests, while 15 more have been recorded doing so.

Most of these birds nest in tree cavities, usually holes engineered and occupied by woodpeckers who then vacate them and build a new site the next year. There is much competition for these nesting sites among chickadees, nuthatches, titmouses, wrens, tree swallows, bluebirds, owls, house finches and the dreaded starlings. If you have a few nesting boxes spotted about your property (no more than 5 per acre), you should have some tenants. Woodpeckers such as flickers, Hairys, and Downys as well as Wood Ducks and kestrels will also use appropriate boxes. A small, roofed wood platform placed under the eaves will be preferred by robins, Barn Swallows and phoebes.

Nest boxes must be constructed to a specific size for each species you want to attract. Remember that cavity nesters' young are born naked and are sensitive to temperature extremes, so plans, materials and location of the box must be carefully considered. There are many books which have plans and specifications; size of floor, depth of box, height of entrance hole above floor, diameter of entrance hole (to discourage larger, more aggressive birds) and height to fasten above the ground. Try to place the box with a clear flight path to the hole. Place at a slight angle toward the ground with the hole facing south or southwest to avoid storm-driven rain. Hinge the floor so you can remove old nesting materials before the next season.

You don't have to be a birdhouse architect; the birds aren't too fussy. Get out your tools and whip out a few simple structures during the winter. You needn't paint them but place them and let them "age" a bit before nesting season begins. Then enjoy watching your new tenants raise their families.

—MEG PAULETICH

GGAS BALANCE SHEET

In *The GULL* for September at page 134 we printed a comparison of the budget and experience for 1990-91 and the budget for 1991-92. We then promised a report on the special funds and their status. Below is the balance sheet for the end of the fiscal year, May 31, 1991, which shows a current operating deficit.

Golden Gate Audubon Society

BALANCE SHEET
as of 5/31/91

ASSETS	
Petty Cash	296.02
Checking Account	3,431.42
Money Market Fund	69,189.16
Certificate of Deposit	252,000.00
Accrued CD Interest	4,362.76
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Prepaid Expenses	809.55
Inventory	6,107.04
Fixed Assets	20,745.62
Accum. Depreciation	-18,967.90
TOTAL ASSETS	338,333.67

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	2,055.00
Funds in Holding	2,285.17
Payroll Taxes	618.12
Sales Taxes Payable	75.43
Total Current Liab.	5,033.72

Funds	
Legal Fund	55,656.44
Rare Bird Alert Fund	671.04
Life Membership Fund	4,150.00
Sanctuary Fund	88,235.50
Income Only	55,224.00
Discretionary Fund	84,243.33
Bayshore Fund	1,747.71
Education Fund	11,635.00
Revolving Fundraising	3,655.32
General Fund	29,330.75
Total Funds	334,549.09
TOTAL LIABILITIES	339,582.81

Current Operating Deficit . . . -1,249.14

INSURANCE FOR GGAS

It is prudent for any chapter that engages in activities, even simple meetings, to obtain insurance coverage. In recent times this has been difficult to find. National Audubon has made arrangements with Washington Insurance Services of Arlington, Virginia, to provide Conservation Association Liability Insurance specifically tailored for virtually all of the activities conducted by the typical Audubon chapter. The policies they offer include volunteer workers accident and director's and officer's liability.

GGAS has, after long search, availed itself of this insurance. The National Audubon Society has done an important service in arranging for insurance.

11th ANNUAL WILDLIFE
ART SHOW

The San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society will, once again, sponsor a Wildlife Arts and Crafts show at DeAnza College in Cupertino, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 7 and 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is a major fund-raiser for the Society. Admission is free, but parking is \$1 in the lot or \$2 in the garage just west of the Flint Center. For further information call (510) 792-0222.

ANYONE FOR _____?

If you care about what is happening (or not happening) regarding regional conservation issues and would like to get involved, attend the next meeting of the San Francisco Conservation Committee on Monday, Jan. 6, 1992. It will be held at 590 Texas St., in San Francisco. Current projects include creating and preserving habitat for Burrowing Owls at Candlestick Park, monitoring how Golden Gate Park is managed, a breeding bird census—and much more. Call Ruth Vose at (415) 282-5937 for more information.

WETLANDS (continued from 173)

of a handful of the surface soil for it to be saturated. Well, some wetlands have soils that don't squeeze out water (e.g. our Bay Area clay soils simply don't squeeze out water even if wet). The original Manual did not require a squeeze test.

Also, many well known wetlands types have water only in the root zones (6 to 18 inches below the surface). The original 1989 Manual recognized this, but the Revisions would not consider these areas wetlands. We have these types of wetlands in our Bay Area and under the revisions they would no longer be wetlands.

In fact, the Proposed Revisions would probably remove all of our seasonal wetlands from federal jurisdiction and protection! And current projections estimate that 30% of our nation's wetlands, about 30 million acres, would be removed from federal jurisdiction under the Revisions.

The EPA is taking written comments on the Proposed Revisions until December 14. We need to have as many letters as possible written to them protesting the Revisions. Please write to:

Mr. Gregory Peck
Chief, Wetlands and Aquatic Resources
Regulatory Branch
Mail Code (A-104F), U.S.E.P.A.
401 M Street SW,
Washington, D.C. 20460

Tell Mr. Peck that the (1) 1989 *"Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands"*; *Proposed Revisions* is a document that has no scientific validity. Tell him that the change from 7 days to 21 days for duration of saturation and the new requirement that saturation be determined by the "squeeze test" are both without scientific foundation.

(2) Ask the EPA to reject these Revi-

sions and ask them to either return to using the 1989 Manual as first published or have the National Academy of Sciences develop a scientifically valid wetlands Delineation Manual.

That's all you have to say. Just those few points. Please write in the next few days and play a real and vital role in determining the fate of our wetlands. Thanks.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call me at (415) 282-5937. Thanks again.

—ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

LETTERS

Editor:

I took the Lobos Creek Walk that Eve Iverson and Brook gave on Oct. 6th.

The serious birders with us may have been disappointed as we saw few birds but those of us who showed up to see the Lobos Creek were thrilled at the opportunity.

Eve had a lot of information for us and very interesting stories.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to see this secret little spot of San Francisco.

—LINDA FIELDING

CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Mark your calendar now for a very significant event in January: Greenbelt Alliance is sponsoring a conference to look at the environmental issues that may be complicated or solved with the beginning of regional government agencies. It will be from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday Jan. 25. For information call (415) 543-4291 or see *The GULL* for January.

NEWS FROM OUR RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch (415) 868-9244
Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature
Education under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate,
Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies
Gary Holloway, President

ANNUAL APPEAL

This month you will find ACR's annual appeal letter in *The GULL*. This is our effort to reduce costs and reduce the amount of paper we use. In the past our annual appeal letter was mailed to all members of the supporting Audubon Chapters, as well as to friends and supporters who visit the Ranch each year. I do sincerely hope you read Gary Holloway's letter and then lend your support to Audubon Canyon Ranch.

ACR: A HISTORY AND A CHALLENGE

It has been a long time since the relationship between the supporting Audubon Chapters and ACR has been discussed in *The GULL*. Perhaps this is a good time to let you know just what that relationship is and how it came to be.

This is not a complete history of ACR, but one which focuses primarily on the relationship between ACR and the Audubon Society Chapters.

Very simply, MARIN, GOLDEN GATE, MADRONE, and SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETIES took it upon themselves to create Audubon Canyon Ranch as a nature preserve in Marin and Sonoma Counties, to develop an

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

In Memory of
Elsie Roemer

Judy Bellamy
Marilyn Coward

**FOR THE WETLANDS
EFFORT**

**FOR THE BAY DELTA
LAWSUIT**

**FOR THE RARE
BIRD ALERT**

Anna Wilcox
Jane Dang
Nancy T. Konzett
Phyllis & Clark Gleason
Marion Covel
Howard E. Brownson
Mary L. Jefferds
Mary L. Roberts
Jim & Lynn Groh
Ruth & Jim Gravanis
Susan L. Thorner
Jean Puffer
Benson Lee
Gwen Thoele

Howard Naftzger

Courtenay Peddle

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

environmental education program for both children and adults, and to establish the research programs which focus on our sanctuaries and our local environment.

It all began in 1961 when Marin Audubon President Mary Griffin and Stan Pitcher became aware of the immediate need to save the heronry at Bolinas Lagoon. They developed the plan to purchase the property, then approached Golden Gate Audubon Society to join in the project. Undaunted by the purchase price of \$337,000 they undertook the monumental task of fund raising. Within a year the leaders of those Audubon Chapters formed Audubon Canyon Ranch as an independent non-profit corporation. It took only until 1966 for ACR and its supporters to obtain ownership of the Ranch.

In 1968 Sequoia Audubon Society joined forces with the other supporting chapters to provide even greater depth to our pool of friends, leaders and benefactors. This was a time when ACR was faced with an ongoing need to purchase property around Bolinas Lagoon and the surrounding watershed. During the ensuing years we developed our education program with the help of the Junior League of San Francisco. Many of its members formed the core of the ACR Docent Council.

1971 marked the year Clifford Conly became a major benefactor to ACR by donating his property on Tomales Bay, thus creating the Cypress Grove Preserve. It was our other benefactors, many of whom were Audubon chapter members, whose generosity enabled us to purchase much of our other holdings on Tomales Bay and ultimately was critical in the preservation of that vital link in the Pacific flyway.

In 1978, thanks to the benevolence of David Bouverie, the Bouverie Audubon

Preserve in Glen Ellen was added as a third major sanctuary to the ACR system. Once again there was a need for additional friends, leaders and benefactors and it was the Madrone Audubon Society which provided the core of ACR's support in Sonoma.

In many respects ACR has not really changed through the course of its history. We have always depended on the support and leadership provided by members of our sponsoring Audubon chapters. It was through their generosity that ACR began in 1961 and it is through your generosity that we continue our work in habitat preservation, environmental education and research. Audubon Chapter members volunteer at all our preserves, they serve on our Board of Directors and on our Advisory Board, and it is through their financial support that we can continue to provide the services which are a model for other such organizations.

Take advantage of your Audubon Society membership, and as part of that take advantage of your chapter's support for Audubon Canyon Ranch. Visit one or more of our sanctuaries during the coming year, take one of our many seminars, volunteer as a weekend host or a Ranch Guide, and contribute your financial support. ACR remains fiscally independent from local Audubon chapters and from the National Audubon Society. It is supported by grants from foundations and donations from friends like you. Audubon Canyon Ranch is your sanctuary, enjoy it's beauty, support it however you can, and help enable us to meet the challenge of environmental education and preservation in the future.

—DAN MURPHY



AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Dear Friends:

Audubon Canyon Ranch is doing good work, and as a member of a sponsoring Audubon Society Chapter, we need your support.

I support ACR because the Ranch makes a positive difference in a troubled world.

- I see it in the smile and gratitude of weekend visitors experiencing the natural beauty of the preserves and wildlife.
- I see it in the eyes of the excited school children—opened to the wonder of nature during their free educational field trips to ACR preserves.
- I see it in ACR's 2,000 acres of beautiful countryside preserved through steadfast devotion to the conservation ethic. ACR continues to protect wetlands, forests, grasslands, and streams despite ever-increasing development pressure all around us.
- I see it in the beauty of a marsh restored, and hear it in the song of a Yellowthroat monitored through ACR programs of research and resource management.
- I see it in the work of over 200 active volunteers from all walks of life, who not only make our programs possible, but who also nurture in themselves a love and greater understanding of nature.

For 30 years, Audubon Canyon Ranch has made quiet, effective contributions to the community. Your financial support is needed and truly appreciated.

Please, take a moment now to help ACR continue to make a difference. Send your tax-deductible contribution to: Audubon Canyon Ranch, P.O. Box 577, Stinson Beach, CA 94970 or call (415) 868-9244.

Very Truly Yours,

Gary L. Holloway
President



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
Office: (510) 843-2222
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, California 94702

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THE GULL

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Dan Murphy
Bruce Howard

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (510) 528-0288
Update: (510) 524-5592

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.